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Date: May 17, 2001

By:

Kay L. Gaviglio

TECH CENTER 1600/2000

PATENT

Docket No. GC538-2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

M. Boston et al.

Serial No.: 09/470,168

Filed: December 22, 1999

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING ASCORBIC
ACID INTERMEDIATES

Group Art Unit: 1652

Examiner: E. Slobodyansky, PH.D.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Director of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 18, 2000, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment and remarks. This response is considered timely. A petition for a two-month extension of time, until May 18, 2001, accompanies this communication.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Example II with the following clean copy of the amended section. A marked-up version is attached hereto.

Example II

Example II describes the method for producing a host cell having a mutation in the naturally occurring 2-keto-D-gluconate dehydrogenase (E3).